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Dated: November 15, 2006

Signature:

(Raymond Garguilo, Jr.)

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 3738

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437

CIPCIPCIPCIP CON XV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Errico et al.

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Application No.: 10/642,527

::: Group Art Unit: 3738

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Filed: August 15, 2003

::: Examiner: B. E.
Pellegrino

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For: AXIALLY COMPRESSIBLE
ARTIFICIAL INTERVERTEBRAL
DISC HAVING A CAPTURED BALL
AND SOCKET JOINT WITH A
SOLID BALL AND COMPRESSION
LOCKING POST

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed June 15, 2006, finally rejecting claims 1-20, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

A Petition for a Two-month Extension of Time thereby extending the time for responding to the Official Action from September 15, 2006 to and including November 15, 2006 is included herewith.